By the King.

¶ A Proclamation to reſtraine the vnlawfull tranſportation of Hides and Leather.

THe Kings moſt Excellent MAIESTIE, taking knowledge of the great ſcarcity and extraordinary deareneſſe of Leather, lately growne within this Realme, and enquiring into the cauſes thereof, hath diſcouered, that, although there hath beene lately a greater number of raw hides, by reaſon of the extraordinary prouiſions for the Nauy, then in former yeeres; yet the Markets haue not beene ſerued with Hides, as they were wont to be, but the raw Hydes are ſecretly, and by ſtealth, conueyed beyond the Seas. And his Maieſtie hath alſo beene informed, That vnder colour of a Liberty giuen heretofore, for conueying of Hydes and Leather from the Port of London vnto Hull, for ſeruice of the Northerne parts, there haue beene lately great quantities caryed away, which neuer arriued at the Port of Hull, but are conueyed into Scotland, or other Forraine parts. And further, that there being no Prohibition already, for the carrying of Hydes and Leather ouer Land into Scotland, great quantities are conueyed that way, eſpecially by the City of Carliſle. And alſo, that there are many and great Ingroſſers of Leather in the City of London; By which meanes the prices are kept high, and much Leather is cut out for Bootes and Shooes, and is packed vp cloſely, and ſo tranſported into France, the Low Countries, and other forraine places, vnder colour of other Merchandize. And further, That vnder colour of Calue-ſkins, permitted to be tranſported by Licence, great number of Skins of greater growth, are conueyed, Which Would bee ſeruiceable for making of Bootes and Shooes, and other vſes. And that to colour theſe great abuſes, (Which are ſo generally prejudiciall to all ſorts of people) either the offenders themſelues, or ſome other ill diſpoſed perſons, doe falſly publiſh, that there haue beene Licentes giuen by his Maieſtie, contrary to the Lawes, to tranſport great quantities of Leather, and raw Hydes, Where, in trueth, no ſuch Licence hath beene granted to any, nor ſo much as thought vpon to be granted. All which, being made knowne to his Maieſty, his Highneſſe, out of his Princely care and prouidence, for the generall good of his people, hath thought fit (by the aduice of his Priuie Counſell) to publiſh and declare, And doth heereby publiſh and declare his Royall Pleaſure and Commandement, concerning the Premiſſes, in manner following.

That from henceforth no perſon whatſoeuer, either naturall borne Subiect, Denizen, or ſtranger, doe preſume to export out of this Kingdome, any raw Hydes, or any Leather, either into any Forraine parts beyond the Seas, or into Scotland, by colour of carrying Calue-ſkins, or otherwiſe.

And for the better preuention of the like abuſes hereafter, (which otherwiſe cannot poſſibly be preuented) his Maieſty doth further ſtraitly charge and command, That no perſon, vnder colour of carrying or conueying of Hydes or Leather, from one part of this Kingdome to another, doe carry the ſame by Water, or put the ſame into any Ship, Barge, Boat, or other Veſſell, to carry the ſame by Water.

And further, that no Shoomaker, Currier, or other Artificer, doe buy any Leather, but ſuch onely as he ſhall conuert into made Wares, and ſhall not bee in any ſort a factor or agent, to buy any leather for any Merchant or other perſon, who ſhall after tranſport the ſame into any parts beyond the Seas, or into the Realme of Scotland. And that they, nor any of them, bee any Ingroſſer of hides or leather, whereby, or by meanes or occaſion whereof, the prices of hides or leather may bee enhaunced, or the Markets be vnfurniſhed or vnſtored. All which his Maieſty doth ſtraitly charge and Command, to bee duely obſerued by all ſorts of people, in their ſeuerall places and degrees, vpon paine, not onely to incurre the vttermoſt penalties and puniſhments, which by the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme, may be inflicted vpon the offenders, but alſo vpon further paine of his Maieſties high diſpleaſure, and ſuch further puniſhment as by his Maieſties Prerogatiue Royall, or by the ſeuereſt Cenſure of the Court of Starre Chamber can bee impoſed vpon them, for ſo great a contempt.

And to the end, that all others may take heede how they doe hereafter either of malice or raſhneſſe, publiſh ſuch falſe and fained rumours, tending ſo much to the ſlander of his Maieſties gouernment, his Maieſtie doeth hereby ſtraitly admoniſh and Command, that no perſon preſume to publiſh or repoꝛt ſuch falſe rumours, in this or in any thing of the like kinde. And to the intent, that ſuch as are willing to take paines to diſcouer the offenders and offences aforeſaid, either already committed, or hereafter to bee committed in any kinde concerning the premiſſes, for the generall good of the Common Wealth, may haue fit encouragement and recompence, his Maieſtie doeth hereby promiſe and vndertake, That whoſoeuer ſhall firſt diſcouer to the Lord Treaſurer of England, or Barons of the Exchequer, any of the ſaid offenders or offences, either in conueying away of any hides or leather, or engroſſing the ſame, or in being the inſtruments or aſſiſtants thereunto, or in rayſing or publiſhing ſuch falſe rumours or repoꝛts, as aforeſaid, whereby the offenders ſhall or may be brought to receiue due puniſhment for ſuch their offences, that euery perſon which ſhall ſo firſt diſcouer the ſame (beſides ſuch part of the fines and forfeitures as by Law ſhall belong vnto him) ſhall haue a liberall reward from his Maieſtie, out of ſuch part of the offenders fines or forfeitures which ſhall accrue to his Maieſtie, at the good diſcretion of the Lord Treaſurer of England, or Barons of the Exchequer, for the time being.

Giuen at His Maieſties Court at White-hall, the 14. day of December, in the ſecond yeere of his Maieſties Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God ſaue the King.

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